

## REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4-9, 11-14 and 20 with respect to the applied species were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Renner et al (DE 37 30 557) by the English language translation. In the alternative claims 1-2, 4-9, 11-14 and 20 with respect to the applied species were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious by Renner et al (DE 37 30 557) by the English language translation. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Renner is directed to 2-equivalent couplers. In contrast the current invention relates to thiocyanato compounds that are specifically described as not being couplers. This is clearly stated at page 7, line 17 of the specification. Applicants have added this language to claim 1. Since Renner is directed to coupler compounds and the current invention relates to compounds that are not couplers Renner cannot anticipate the current invention.

Applicants are the first to teach that a photographically useful mercaptan, that is not a coupler, can be incorporated as an organothiocyanato compound (PUGSCN) in a silver halide element, and that the compound cleaves as desired between the sulfur and carbon atom to give the desired mercaptan, PUGS. In contrast Renner is directed to 2-equivalent couplers in combination with oil-formers. Renner does not suggest or discuss blocked mercaptans that are not couplers and that release the mercaptan in a non-imagewise manner. Therefore the current invention cannot be obvious over Renner.

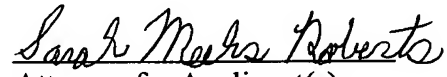
Claims 15-19 with respect to the applied species were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious by Renner et al (DE 37 30 557) by the English language translation considered in view of Hirabayashi (5,270,156) and Lok (5,914,226). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As discussed above, Renner is directed to 2-equivalent couplers. As noted by the Examiner, Hirabayashi merely suggests the general range of a coupler to silver ratio that may be utilized in silver halide elements. Since neither Renner or Hirabayashi describes or suggests the blocked mercaptan compounds of the current invention, the combination thereof cannot make the current invention obvious. Lok is cited merely to show the known use of a sulfinato containing compound to obtain stable photographic materials having 95 or more mole percent silver chloride. It also does not discuss or suggest the use of the blocked mercaptan compounds of the current invention. Therefore the combination of

Renner in view of Hirabayashi and Lok cannot make the current invention obvious.

In light of the above amendments and remarks it is respectfully requested that the claims as amended be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.